

OUR VISION

LOVE GOD, GROW DISCIPLES, SHARE CHRIST...
TOGETHER.

PRESENTED BY THE PASTORS AND ELDERS OF
CALVARY CHAPEL SARASOTA

Introduction

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

There is no better example of the Church. Acts 2:42-47 describes the church as Jesus intended us to be. At Calvary Chapel Sarasota we desire to honor God by being a living part of the global church; ministering to each other in the very same way the early church did, described in Acts 2.

We believe that our local expression of the church should be unified in heart, mind and have a clear vision that serves as a guide for all we do.

Why does Calvary Chapel Sarasota exist? What is the purpose of our gathering? How would we explain our vision as a church? All these questions can be answered with the following vision statement:

We exist to **LOVE GOD, GROW DISCIPLES and SHARE CHRIST...TOGETHER.**

LOVE GOD

We exist to boldly worship God with our lives and to find complete joy and satisfaction in Him.

Loving the true God starts with an accurate understanding of the Bible and a true knowledge of God as He has revealed Himself to be through His Word. We teach the Bible to better grasp who He is and what He has done throughout history; resulting in a response of awe-filled, passionate and authentic love for Him.

Worship is a lifestyle. We have the amazing opportunity to worship God with all that we do which means that every moment of our lives comes with an opportunity to worship. Our worship is not limited to church services or times of music but we can delight in the Lord; glorifying Him in every situation while finding complete joy and satisfaction in Him.

We gather as a church, in a variety of settings, to express our love for God through corporate worship, prayer, communion and teaching. We believe that all ministry should be rooted in an authentic love for God, with Him being the focus and motivation for everything we do, so in many ways LOVE GOD is the inspiration for everything that happens at Calvary Chapel Sarasota.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

GROW DISCIPLES

We exist to teach the Word of God to grow in maturity, zeal, love for God and love for one another.

A major responsibility of the church is to disciple and equip God's people to live for Him and to do the work of the ministry. Discipleship means that we do life together and minister to each other through the ups and downs of life; coming to the Lord together and reminding each other of the unchanging truths found in God's Word.

Growing disciples is a result of our love for God. As we know and love Him we are compelled to share His grace and love with each other, building one another up in the faith.

As we gather in the name of Jesus, discipleship happens. Whether in times of corporate teaching, smaller Growth Groups or one-on-one meetings, we believe God uses us to pour into each other. Whatever the context, we focus on God's Word and leave room for the Holy Spirit to grow His people in passion and intimate knowledge of Him.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 'This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40

SHARE CHRIST

We exist to impact the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through intentional evangelism and global missions.

We believe that the Church is to equip God's people to share their faith boldly. Whatever the environment or situation, we have the opportunity to be salt and light by bringing God's truth to a broken and lost world.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is not to be hidden or kept to ourselves. We see the urgency of reaching people for Christ through intentional daily evangelism; sharing Christ in word and deed with others at work, at school, at home, in our neighborhoods and community.

We desire that every one of our ministries would reach beyond our four walls and impact our community. Whether it's praying with and ministering to our neighbor or making teachings and original music available to the world; we see the opportunity and acknowledge our responsibility to share Christ.

Alongside daily evangelism is the work of missions going on around the world. We have seen the Lord do amazing things over the years and humbly participate in that work through sending, going and supporting global missions to the unreached and needy.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

TOGETHER

God has made us to be a one-another people. The body of Christ is a beautiful, God-ordained institution where people from all walks of life can gather in Jesus' name to glorify Him, grow in the faith and build one another up.

We have the opportunity to know and be known by others. We can be strengthened in our suffering, celebrated in our successes and encouraged in our faith.

It is our desire to do all that we do TOGETHER.

To *Love God* together, to *Grow Disciples* together and to *Share Christ* together.

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

1 Corinthians 12:18-20

